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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04827 01 OF 02 171910Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------171923Z 088025 /42
R 171856Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6606
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04827

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-USSR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: BONN 4641

1. FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL HAS TOLD ME THAT THE CHANCELLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE ASSURED HIM HE IS UNDER NO PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATING "SUCCESS" WITH THE SOVIETS DURING HIS MARCH 22-24 MOSCOW VISIT. VAN WELL EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT
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WAS TO CONSULT FULLY WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE NOTED THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST MEETING WITH THE SOVIETS SINCE THE NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED. WHILE HIS VISIT WOULD START THE CONSULTATION PROCESS, VAN WELL SAID IT WAS THE FRG HOPE THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE SUMMER AND PERHAPS TO A BREZHNEV

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VISIT TO THE FRG IN THE EARLY FALL.

2. VAN WELL SAID THE SOVIETS HAD DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN HIS VISIT AND THAT AMBASSADOR FALIN HAD MADE DEMARCHES ON SEVERAL "PROJECTS" (COMMENT: VAN WELL DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH PROJECTS). FALIN HAD ALSO MENTIONED TO VAN WELL THAT THE GERMANS SEEMED TO BE CONSULTING RECENTLY WITH ALL EAST EUROPEANS EXCEPT THE SOVIETS. VAN WELL NOTED THAT THE RATIO WAS ABOUT FOUR TO ONE IN FAVOR OF THE EAST EUROPEANS AND THE FRG PERCEIVED A NEED TO BALANCE THE SCALES.

3. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG DID NOT WANT TO FOCUS TOO MUCH ON THE THREE PENDING AGREEMENTS (CULTURAL PROTOCOL, SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT). VAN WELL SAID THE SOVIETS HAD SHOWN AN INTEREST IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THESE DIFFICULTIES. HOWEVER, GENSCHER HAD INSTRUCTED HIM THAT HE WANTED A "CLEAN SOLUTION." IF SUCH A SOLUTION WERE NOT FORTHCOMING, GENSCHER WAS PREPARED TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE. GIVEN THE CURRENT SOVIET MOOD AND EAST GERMAN COCKINESS, VAN WELL DID NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR PROGRESS.

4. CULTURAL PROTOCOL. VAN WELL THOUGHT THE SIDES MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT FOR A FINAL NEGOTIATING ROUND AT THE EXPERT LEVEL.

5. SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. VAN

WELL SAID HE WAS PESSIMISTIC. THE SOVIETS DO NOT HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH THE BERLIN INSTITUTIONS. HE REFERRED TO THE LACK OF TRUST IN THE SOVIETS AND THE FACT THAT THE BUNDESTAG WOULD HAVE TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE FRG MUST COUNT ON THE SOVIETS' ABUSING ANY SPECIAL SOLUTIONS.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04827

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FOR EXAMPLE, HE CONTINUED, IF THE FRG-SOVIET BILATERAL AGREEMENT DID NOT FULLY COVER THE BERLIN INSTITUTES, THE SOVIETS WOULD USE SUCH AN AGREEMENT TO ARGUE AGAINST COOPERATION WITH BERLIN INSTITUTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

6. VAN WELL EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT NO TREATY COULD BE CONCLUDED UNTIL A BREAKTHROUGH WAS ACHIEVED ON THE INSTITUTIONS QUESTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO THE FEDERALLY-FINANCED LEITNER INSTITUTE (PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY), THE WHEAT INSTITUTE, AND THE RESEARCH ARM OF THE FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICE. IF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIETS WERE TO AGREE THAT SUCH INSTITUTIONS COULD BE INCLUDED, THEN VAN WELL BELIEVED PROGRESS WAS POSSIBLE. IF NOT, HE SAID THE FRG AND USSR COULD THEN CONSIDER SEPARATE PROJECT AGREEMENTS.

7. LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. VAN WELL SAID THIS AGREEMENT WAS EVEN MORE COMPLICATED SINCE THE SOVIETS WANTED TO NOTIFY THE THREE ALLIED POWERS. HE SAID THE FRG HAD INDICATED TO THE SOVIETS THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH THE THREE POWERS,

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AND THAT THE LATTER WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT EITHER.
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